

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended). A method of collecting a specimen with a swab and depositing a specimen into a collection device comprising:

- (a) providing a swab having a swab tip which is releasably attached to one end of a unitary elongate handle;
- (b) providing a sleeve which is not attached to said swab tip and is slidable along said handle;
- (c) collecting a specimen on said swab tip;
- (d) placing said swab such that said swab tip is adjacent to an opening in a collection device; and
- (e) urging said sleeve along said handle and against said swab tip to remove said swab tip completely from said handle allowing said swab tip to drop

into said collection device without ~~any~~ either of said handle or said sleeve  
being attached.